Canadian Expeditionary Force Study Group

Private messaging

Re: Unknown Corporal: Barnett, Edward #129498 "PULLED"

From: **rlaughton** [Sun Dec 03, 2017 5:58 am]

To: rlaughton

Subject: Unknown Corporal: Barnett, Edward #129498 "PULLED"

rlaughton wrote:

December 2, 2017

I have pulled this report for further review after uncovering additional information, during research on an entirely different project.

The primary basis of this report was that Corporal Barnett was the only missing (unknown) Corporal of the 72nd Battalion that was lost at Vimy. The other, as detailed in the report, was lost at Courcelette.

I have put all the maps, war diary information and casualty records in this MediaFire folder:

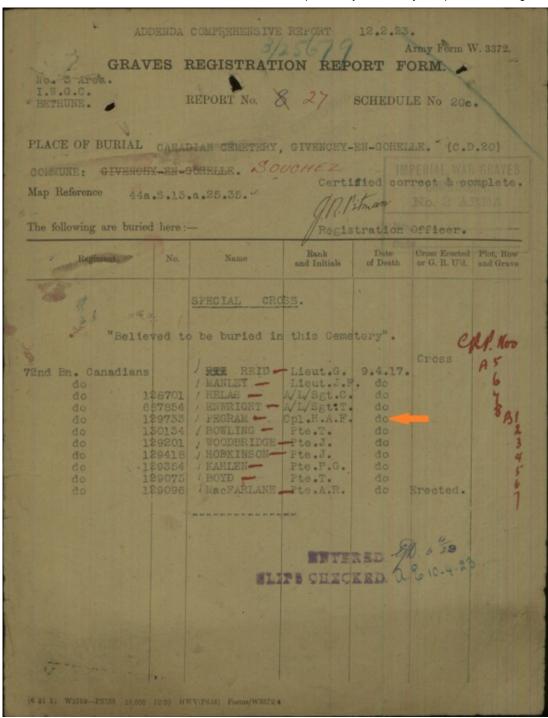
F548 72nd Bn. Corporal

What caught my attention today was that the "Special Memorial B - Believed to be buried in this cemetery", lists a <u>Corporal H. F. A Pegram</u>. Although he shows as being in the <u>Givenchy-en-Gohelle Canadian Cemetery</u>, he is not buried where that memorial stone sits. That made me think "How do we know that he is not the Corporal in Row C Grave 2? We don't.

This highlights a flaw in the process, in that looking for the MISSING only on the MAJOR MEMORIALS (Vimy, Menin Gate, Arras) does not account for men that are listed on memorials in specific cemeteries. If someone did not believe that Corporal Pegram was in this cemetery, he would have been listed on the Vimy Memorial. If that had been the case, we could have then looked at where they were at the time of their death, to see if we could relate that to the case. That does not work here because we do not have specific trench map coordinates for the remains and even if we did it is a *moot point* because both Corporals were in the same area, 5 weeks apart.

Corporal Pegram was lost during a major raid on the enemy lines on 1 March 1917. Corporal Barnett was lost on 9 April, 1917 during the main assault on Vimy Ridge.

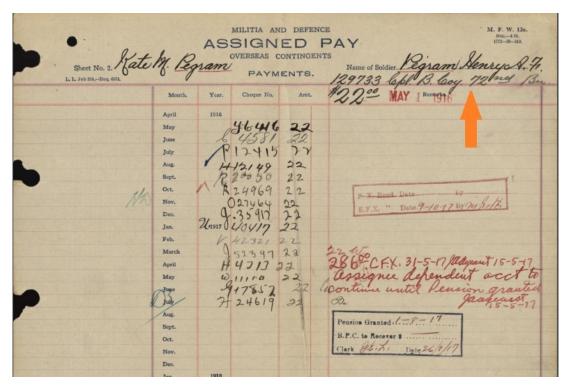
Here is the list of who is on the Special Memorial:



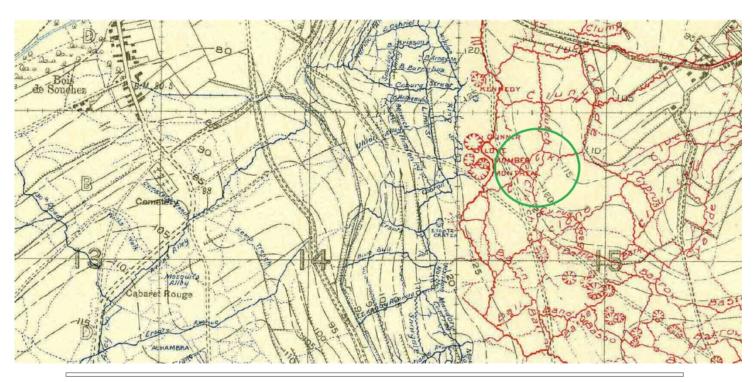
Coincidentally, both Barnett and Pegram were lost at the almost exact trench map coordinates, based on what is in the war diary for the two different dates. Pegram has a location on his COD that says **44a.S.15.a.2.5** (44a = 36c). We don't have that same information for Barnett, as it is not noted on his COD, however the war diary tells us they were in the same area (**S.15.a** and **S.15.c**).

The GRRF mentions that the bomber might have been of "C" Coy. What I have found out now is that Barnett was in "D" Coy and Pegram was in "B" Coy. The war diary does refer to No. 2 Squad of "B" Coy supporting the attack of "C" Coy. I do not know if they found the Corporal with other men of "C" Coy and thus came to the conclusion that he may be one of them.





They were in the general area of the intersection of Cluck and Clutch trench. which is in the central area of **S.15.a**. That is clear on the same trench map used for the Barnett report:



All times are UTC - 5 hours

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921.

SUBMITTED TO:

CWGC Canadian Agency
66 Slater Street
Suite 1707
Ottawa Ontario Canada K1A 0P4

Att: **Dominique Boulais**

Report Date: 31 March 2015 Report Update: 6 December 2016

Report Pulled: December 2, 2017

Reason for Submission: ("X" means purpose of the report)

| Casualty Identification: | Burial Information: | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Confirmed Identity | Burial Location Identified | Χ |
| Most Probable Identity | Grave Stone Correction | Χ |
| Questionable Identity | Grave Records Correction | Χ |
| Incorrect Identity | Request for CWGC Details | |
| Other | Other | |

Supporting Documents: (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

| Casualty Identification: | | Burial Information: | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Barnett, Edward | i | Givenchy-En-Gohelle C.C. | <u>link</u> |
| Corporal 72 nd Bn. | i | Souchez, France | i |
| Service Number #129498 | i | Row C Grave 2 | i |
| Date of Death 1/3/1917 | <u>link</u> | Date of Burial / Exhumation | i |
| Attestation Papers | <u>link</u> | Cemetery Schematic | <u>link</u> |
| Service Record | <u>link</u> | Graves Registration Report | 8 |
| Circumstance of Death | 1 | Concentration of Grave | |
| CEF Canada Register | | Headstone Register | |
| War Diary Extract(s) | <u>2</u> | Casualty Spreadsheet | |
| Area Map(s) | 3 | Trench Map Exhumation | |
| Trench Map(s) | 4, 5 | Grave Stone Photograph | |
| Possible Candidates List | 6 | Grave Stone Inscription | |
| Excluded Candidates List | 7 | Reporting and Review | 9 |
| Other | | Addendum 6-12-2016 | 10 |

Summary of Findings:

The Graves Registration Report form for Row C Grave 2 for the Givenchy-En-Gohelle Canadian Cemetery, Souchez lists an Unknown Corporal of the 72nd Battalion. It is noted he is probably a bomber in "C" Coy.

There are only two (2) Corporals listed on the Vimy Memorial, of which only Corporal Barnett was in the area, at the right time and participating in a bombing exercise.

Details of Findings:

The findings are conclusive that the remains in Row C Grave 2 of Givenchy-en Gohelle Canadian Cemetery, Souchez France are those of Corporal Edward Barnett of the 72nd Canadian Infantry Battalion.

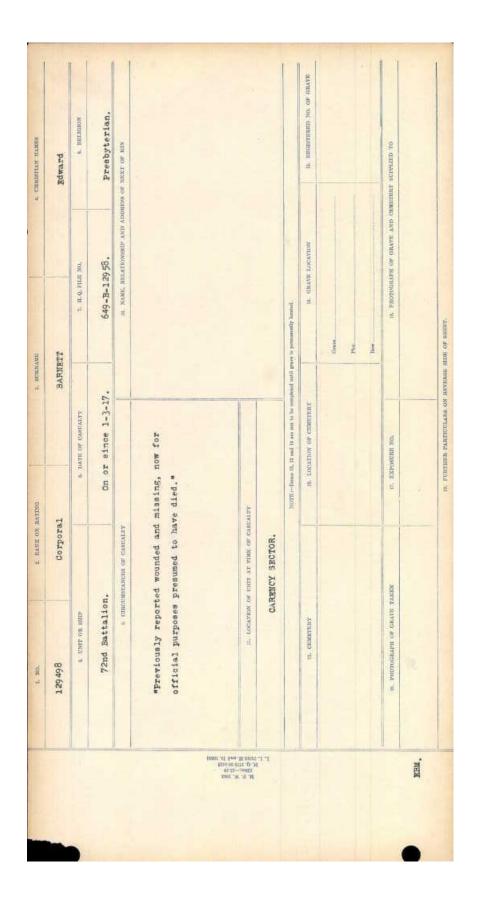
The findings are based on the following:

- 1. The "Circumstance of Death" file reports that Corporal Barnett was previously reported wounded and missing, now for official purposes presumed to have died on or since 1 March 1917 in the Carency Sector (Attachment #1).
- 2. The War Diary of the 72nd Battalion places Corporal Barnett in a trench raid and wire bombing mission on Thursday March 1, 1917 in the Carency Sector (Attachment #2). There was an intense "bombing fight" shortly after the first wave crossed the front lines.
- 3. For clarity, the location of the Carency Sector is depicted in Google Earth and Nicholson Map 7 (Attachment #3). The specific area where the 72nd Infantry Battalion was during the bombing raid is detailed in the trench map extracts from the general map in the McMaster Collection (Attachment #4) and the detailed map in the Imperial War Museum collection (Attachment #5). The craters and trenches referenced in the war diary are clearly visible.
- 4. There are only two missing Corporals of the 72nd Battalion missing (Barnett & Latham) and thus listed on the Vimy Memorial (Attachment #6).
- 5. Corporal Walter Latham #472024 can be excluded from consideration as the Unknown 72nd Battalion Corporal, as he was killed five (5) months earlier in the Battle at Courcelette (Attachment # 7). It was reported that he was buried in Pys British Cemetery 1 mile west of Le Sars but the grave was subsequently lost. There were 22 soldiers from Pys British Cemetery concentrated in Adanac Military Cemetery after the Armistice.
- 6. The "Graves Registration Report Form" from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records lists the remains in Row C Grave 4 as "72nd Can Battn. UNKNOWN Cpl (bomber probably of "C" Coy."). The evidence is conclusive that those remains are Corporal Edward Barnett #129498 (Attachment #8).

Action Required:

The "Investigative Report" has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #9).

The evidence is conclusive that the remains in Row C Grave 2 at the Givenchy-En-Gohelle Canadian Cemetery, Souchez are those of Corporal Edward Barnett of the 72nd Canadian Infantry Battalion. The CWGC records and headstone inscription should be amended to note the identity of the remains.



appender Al 15 79nd Battalion Canadian Infantry. REPORT ON RAID CARRIED OUT ON MARCH 18t. 1917

On the date mentioned a Divisional Raid was carred out by the 11th and 19th Brigades, supported on the left by the 10th Brigade.

The 7 and Battalion had for its Right boundary a line drawn from the head of VINGENT STREET through the centre of the group of craters at 5.15 Central; and for its Left boundary a line drawn from the head of BLUE BULL C.T. through S.15.a. to the Left of KAISER GANG TRENCH.

The Raiding party was divided into two (9) waves, the FIRST WAVE consisting of one hundred(100) men with four (4) Lewis Guns, under the command of Lieut. F. G. Colquhoun and Lieuts. Husband and Morris. The SECOND WAVE consisted of five (5) Patrols and were commanded respectively as follows:-

No. 1 Patrol - Lieut. J. F. Manley & Lieut. I. J. Garred. No. 9 Patrol - Lieut. A.C.Lumsden & Lieut. R.K.McCarthy. No. 3 Patrol - Lieut, W.C.Ross & Lieut, N.H. Peters.

NO, 4 Patrol - Lieut. T.Raisbeck & Lieut. A.D. McLennan. No. 5 Patrol - Lieut. T.B. Barrie & Lieut. D.O. Vicars. Major R.K. Johnston was in command of the Assault and Capt. A.V. Wood in command of the Second Wave. Major J.H. Sweet was in charge of the special garrison which occupied the Front Line until the raiders returned.

ZERO time was set at 3,00 a.m. at which hour a Cloud of gas (White Star) was liberated. A second cloud of gas (chlorine) was to have been liberated at ZEEP plus one (1) hour fortyfive (45) minutes, but owing to a change in the wind this was not done.

At ZERO, minus one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes the Special Garrison relieved the regular garrison and the raiders were assembled in their places of rendezvous as follows:-First wave - In Snargate. Nos. 1,2,3,Patrols - in VINCENT TUNNELS. Nos. 4 & 5 Patrols in HOSPITAL RIDGE.

At ZERO plus two (3) hours and twenty (30) minutes the Raiding parties left their respective rendezvous and moved up to the Front Line.

At ZERS plus two (9) hours and forty (40) minutes, our Artillery opened a barrage on the Hun Front Line and our First Wave left our Front Line Trench and preceeded through the gaps in our wire and extended in No Man's Land close behind the barrage. The Patrols followed close behind.

When the barrage lifted at the end of five(5) minutes our First Wave entered the Hun Front Line, and the Patrols, passing through the First Wave, proceeded to their respective objectives.

The First Wave met little opposition on entering the trench, and the four (4) Lewis Guns were placed in advantageous positions to cover the Front. A few minutes later a considerable party of Huns appeared from dugouts and a bombing fight ensued, which resulted in the capture of fourteen (14) prisoners. This wave bombed several dugouts, one of which is known to have been eccupied by several Huns, and this was destroyed by a mobile charge. A large bomb dump was also blown up.

No. 1 Patrol became disorganised and did not reach its objective. The other Patrols preceded to their respective objectives, though met by considerable epposition from Enemy Machine Guns.

No. 3 Patrol bombed up a portion of KAISER GANG TRENCH, destraying one fugout with a mobile charge, and bombed three others. It is not known whether any of these were occupied.

No. 8 Patrol bombed the Communication Trench from 3.15.c. 3.9. to 5.15.2.6.9. Although held up by Machine Guns, this Patrol bombed

ATTACHMENT #2 (cont'd)

age 9. Report on Raid of March 1st, 1917 (Simd Battalion).

seven (7) dugouts, one of which was known to have been occupied, and inflicted a number of casualties. It also discovered an ammunition dump at 5.15.2.6. but at this time had used all its mobile charges and could not find another one before withdrawal. This might be dealt with by Artillery.

A portion of this Patrol became rather mixed with the 73rd Battalion, which unfortunately led to some misunderstanding, as the latter retired somewhat before the time set, taking a number of our men with them, and thus prevented Mr Barrie capturing the Enemy Machine Guns which, he claims, he could otherwise have accomplished.

The withdrawal wassupposed to commence at ZERO plus three (3) hours and forty (40) minutes, but fifteen (15) minutes before this time the 73rd and 75th Battalions had both begun to withdraw, leaving our Patrols unprotected on the flanks. Capt. Wood sent Mr Ross to the Right flank to make sure that the 75th had withdrawn, and en finding that this was the case he gave the signal to withdraw, which they did in an orderly manner, protected by the Machine Guns, one of which was attached to each Patrol.

When all had passed over the Hum Front Line, our First Wave withdrew, being in turn protected by the four (4) Machine Guns attached to it. The Raiders were back in our Lines at ZERO plus three (3) hours and fifty (50) minutes.

Arrangements had been made to have the checking of the Patrols carried out in the various places of rendezvous, and reports handed in to the Adjutant before the Line was re-occupied, but owing to the Raiders having to immediately take over the Line, the checking was delayed, and has only been completed today (March 2nd, 1917).

Several points to which I desire to call attention are as follows:-

The Gas Wave which preceded the assault apparently did no damage either to the Huns themselves or to their Machine Guns or ammunition. Only one man was reported by our Patrols as having been found suffering from gas, and he was wearing a helmet which had been shot through.

I have received rather conflicting reports from the various Officers regarding this, but on the whole I think the Barrage was very effective.

From what I can gather from the Patrol Leaders, the Front Line was thinly held, but further back the enemy had numerous Machine Guns, with which they immediately opened fire on the Patrols as they came into sight. The Communication Trench up which No. 5 Patrol went, also the portion of KAISER GANG TRENCH which was dealt with by No. 5 Patrol, were in very bad condition, being knee deep in mud and water and very wide at tep.

No wire was encountered in Front Line, and practically the only wire of any account was that to west of Grater at 5.15.0.8.9. which was

No wire was encountered in Front Line, and practically the only wire of any account was that to WEST of Grater at S.15.c.8.9., which was about ten (10) feet deep and in good condition. The Grater is unoccupied and not fortified.

The damage which the Raiders did was considerable, and the Frent Line Trench is now practically obliterated. The known casualties to the enemytetal about twentyfive (25), but undoubtedly there were

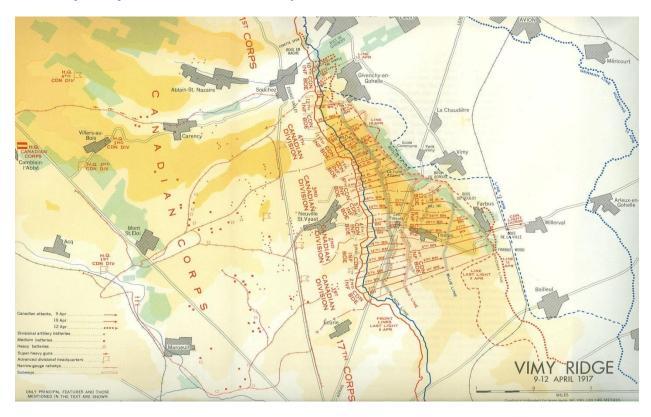
(Sgd.) A. D. Wilson,
Major,
for Officer Commanding
7end Battn, Canadian Infantry.

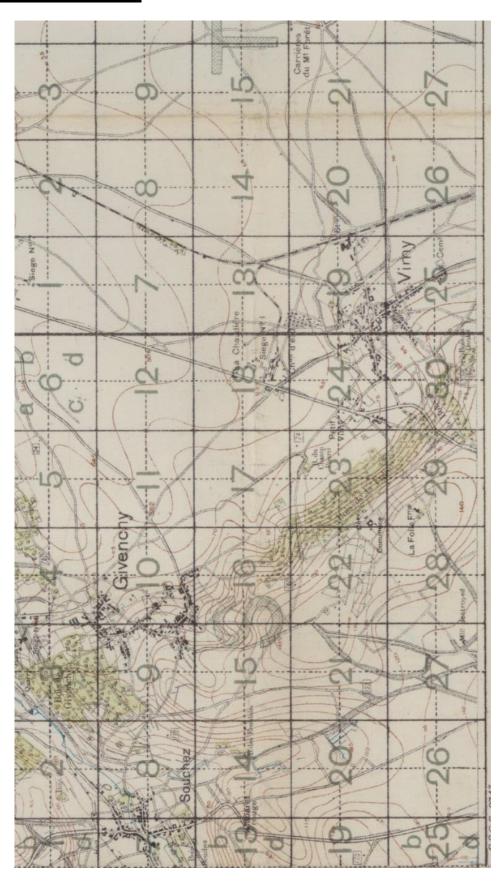
March and, 1917.

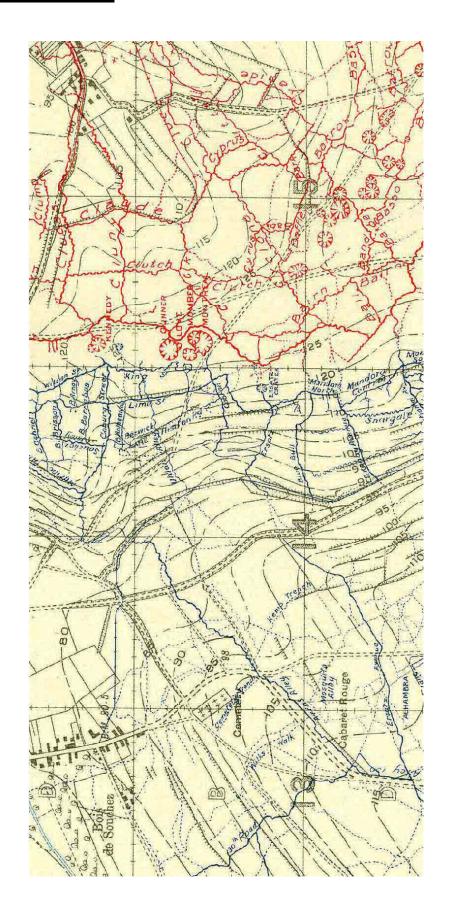
Clarency – Vimy Sector Google Maps



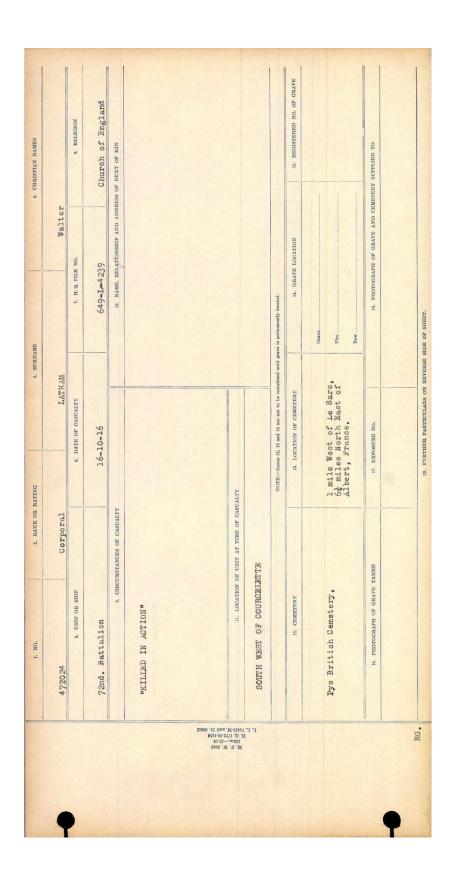
Clarency-Vimy Sector Nicholson map 7







| A | ‡ | ‡ | ‡ | ‡ | \$ | ‡ | \$ | \$ | ‡ |
|--------------------|----------|-------------------|------------------|----------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| Name | Rank | Service Number | Date of Death | Age | Regiment / Service | Service Country | Grave / Memorial Reference | Cemetery / Memorial Name | Docs. |
| BARNETT, EDWARD | Corporal | 129498 | 01/03/1917 | | Canadian Infantry | Canadian | | VIMY MEMORIAL | ₽ |
| LATHAM, WALTER | Corporal | 472024 | 16/10/1916 | 28 | Canadian Infantry | Canadian | | VIMY MEMORIAL | ₽ |



| | | REGISTRAT | | | | | - |
|--|-----------|----------------------------|---------|------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| | | port cancels REPORT No. | - | | | | |
| No.1. District. | | official troe | 401 | | DOMEDOL | 110. | |
| PLACE OF BURIAL | :- CAN | ADIAN CEMETER | Y. GIV | /ENCH | Y-EN-GOH | ELLE. | 1 |
| Commune :- GIV | | | | | | | |
| Map Reference :- Si | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| The following are buri | ed here:- | | | | | | |
| Regiment | No. | Name PLOT - 1 ROW | Rand In | | Date of Death | Cross Erected or G. R. U'd. | Plot, Reand Gra |
| 78/ Can. Battn. | 148442 | PICKERING. | Dite. | E. | | All | В. |
| 38/ " " | 775041 | COOK. | " | C.H. | | | |
| 18/ London Regt. | 3960 | BRAY. | Boys. | A. | | | |
| \$\$\frac{1}{8}\frac{1}{9}\tag{Can Battn.}{38} | 902104 | HEIGHTON. COOPER. | 11 | J.S. R. | 39 41 | (8809) | |
| 50/ " " | 435730 | SMITA. | Cpl. | G.E. | | | |
| 50/ " " | 811891 | AUSTON. | Pte. | J. | | Crosses | |
| 50/ " " | 435490 | GALBRAITH. | Appl. | J.M. | | | |
| 87/ " " | 715016 | WYNN. | " | s. | | | |
| 78/ " " | 148466 | SKINNER. | .11 | G. | | | |
| 50/ " " | 624933 | BELL. | 11 | W.H. | | | |
| 50/ " " | 823362 | WRIGHT. | Ĥ | E.D. | | | |
| * | | ROW. "O". | | | | Twootoi | |
| 78/ Can Battn. | | HOOPER. CA | Maj. | W.T. | | Erected | C. |
| 72/ " " | (Boinber | UNKNOWN. | Cpl. | oy. | | | |
| 72/ " " | | MCLENNAN. | Lt.J | | | | |
| 72/ " " | 129632 | McCOLL. | Pto. | 173 | , | | |

This "Reporting and Review" attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

Procedure:

All new identification cases need to be assessed in the first instance by the Canadian Agency (CA) and submissions should go to their office directly. After an initial assessment, if the Agency feels that the case is compelling, they will then pass all the documentation to the Commemorations Team at the Commission's Head Office. Head Office will then review the case and inform the CA of their findings. The Canadian authorities will then decide whether or not any changes to the arrangements for commemoration are required and inform the Commission accordingly.

Guideline Criteria for Submission:

Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

| Name | Affiliation | E-mail | Contribution |
|------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------|
| Richard Laughton | Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company | rlaughton@laughton.ca | Report Author |

This report was reviewed as part of the December 2016 review process. There were no changes made to the research material presented in the report, however it was noted that some of the links in the table on page 1 of the report were missing. Those have now been inserted. In addition that name of the cemetery as "Givenchy-En-Gohelle Canadian Cemetery, Souchez" has been inserted where it had been omitted.